of marching companies became increasingly difficult. Regimental committees that insisted on executing the order were losing their hold over the men. The Executive Committee had to "push" each company assigned to the front. First, a regimental meeting was called and a resolution was passed stating the readiness of the soldiers to defend their free motherland. Then special talks were held with the men of the marching company. All marching companies departed according to schedule, with music and red flags, but we were paying a high price for each dispatch. The Bolsheviks were not strong enough to stop the marching companies, but their influence in the garrison was rapidly increasing. They were becoming the party of the dodgers in the regiments.

As the trouble-shooter of the Soviet, I stood closer to the campaign of dispatching the marching companies than any other member of the Executive Committee. In retrospect, I think our effort to make the Petrograd garrison share in the defense of the country was the main cause of the soldiers' shift from us to the Bolsheviks, who demanded no sacrifice from men in reserve regiments and promised them the safe and serene life of janizaries of the revolution.

LENIN ARRIVES

Lenin's return to Petrograd on April 15 changed the balance of power in the Russian revolution. His aim was to regroup the forces represented in the Soviet—by uniting the radical elements, strengthening their activity, and weakening and isolating the moderates. Characteristically, he disregarded completely the conservative and reactionary forces.

The revolution had found Lenin in Switzerland. As the leader of the extreme left wing of the international Socialist movement, he defended a defeatist position for Russian Socialists during the war. Since this policy led him, perhaps unintentionally, to support the cause of Germany and the Central Powers, Britain and France listed him as an enemy while the Germans considered him a potential ally. Lenin therefore refused to return through France and asked the Germans for a *laisser-passer* for himself and his party. The German Military Command permitted him to cross Germany in a sealed railway car. The conservative papers in Russia used Lenin's association with the Germans to denounce him as a German spy. The moderates in the Executive Committee deplored his return across Germany, but refused to join the chorus of those who charged him with espionage. After some discussion the Executive Committee decided to give him the customary welcome. Chkheidze went to the station to greet him.